



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chris Abele

MILWAUKEE COUNTY EXECUTIVE

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***Abele Keeps Three Veteran County Leaders in Top Posts  
Heads of Zoo, Aging and Family Care to Stay, Join New Administration***

**MILWAUKEE** – Milwaukee County Executive Chris Abele announced Monday that he will retain the longtime directors of the Milwaukee County Zoo and County Department on Aging and was promoting the interim head of the Department of Family Services to the top position in that agency.

Abele praised the work of Zoo Director Charles Wikenhauser, Department on Aging Director Stephanie Sue Stein and Department of Family Care Interim Executive Director Maria E. Ledger.

“Chuck, Maria and Stephanie are proven administrators, leaders in their fields and dedicated public servants with years of experience and successes,” Abele said. “I’m pleased they’ve agreed to stay on and join my team in helping find innovative ways to provide services to Milwaukee County residents in these tough economic times.”

Wikenhauser has served as zoo director since 1990. He previously ran The Pittsburgh Zoo from 1986 to 1989. Stein has served as head of the Department on Aging since 1993 and has worked in the aging field since 1974. Ledger has been interim head of Family Care since July and was assistant director for long-term support and director of care management organization for the Department on Aging from 2006 through 2010. Ledger’s appointment requires County Board confirmation.

Other appointments Abele, who took office April 25, has made include Kimberly Walker, an attorney from Johnson Controls, Inc., as county corporation counsel; former state administrator Patrick J. Farley as director of the county’s Department of Administrative Services; and business leader Brian Taffora as economic development director. Abele also previously announced he was retaining county department heads Barry Bateman, director of General Mitchell international Airport and Sue Black, director of the Milwaukee County Parks Department.

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